

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PRS-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 EB-07 /053 W

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R 051308Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 2167

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI UAE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN JORDAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT LEBANON

AMEMBASSY DOHA QATAR

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT OMAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

S E C R E T MANAMA 0643

E.O. 11652 : XGDS-1

TAGS : PINS, PINT, BA

SUBJECT : BAHRAIN SECURITY DECREE

REFERENCE : MANAMA 270

1. JUST WHEN CURRENT SESSION BAHRAIN'S NATIONAL ASSEMBLY APPEARED ON VERGE OF CLOSING WITH ANTI-CLIMATIC WHIMPER, THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL POLITICAL ISSUE, THE GOVERNMENT SECURITY DECREE, HAS ESCAPED FROM COMMITTEE WHERE GOVERNMENT THOUGHT IT WAS SAFELY DETAINED FOR THE SUMMER. IN JUNE 8 SESSION ASSEMBLY IS SCHEDULED TO DEBATE IN CAMERA GOVERNMENT DECREE WHICH HAS REACHED FLOOR ACCOMPANIED BY COMMITTEE REPORT RECOMMENDING ITS REJECTION.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER TELLS ME GOB STILL NOT FIRMLY DETERMINED ON HOW TO TRY TO DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE. APPARENTLY OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF 30 ELECTED MEMBERS NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ARE OPPOSED TO THE DECREE ON CIVIL LIBERTIES GROUNDS WHILE MOST IF NOT ALL OF 15 CABINET MEMBERS (PRIME

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MINISTER IS STILL IN LONDON FOR A MEDICAL CHECKUP) CAN BE

EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT JUNE 8 VOTING FOR DECREE.  
PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION, WHICH APPEARS TO US OVERWHELMINGLY  
FAVORABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT, IS THAT IF FORMAL VOTE IS HELD  
ON DECREE AS IT STANDS, 22 MEMBERS MUST VOTE TO REJECT IT OR  
ELSE IT WILL AUTOMATICALLY BECOME LAW. THANKS TO A COURTESY  
FLIGHT BY UTA, WHEN ASSEMBLY OPENS JUNE 8 ONLY 24 ELECTED  
MEMBERS WILL BE IN TOWN WITH THE OTHER 6 IN PARIS RECOVERING  
FROM A NIGHT AT THE LIDO. WITH SUFFICIENT ARM-TWISTING GOB  
SHOULD THUS BE ABLE TO SECURE AT LEAST ENOUGH ABSTENTIONS  
TO CARRY THE DAY.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SAYS PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, GOB STILL IS NOT  
CERTAIN IT WANTS TO RISK TACTIC OF CALLING FOR IMMEDIATE VOTE  
AS NOTED ABOVE. HENCE, GOVERNMENT MIGHT SEIZE ON ALTERNATIVE  
OF INTRODUCING MOTION CALLING FOR FURTHER GOVERNMENT STUDY  
OF DECREE OVER SUMMER (AND PRESUMABLY SOME LIBERALIZING AMENDMENT  
OF IT) AND POSTPONEMENT OF ASSEMBLY CONSIDERATION UNTIL NEXT  
SESSION.

4. I SUGGESTED TO FOREIGN MINISTER THAT POLITICAL SITUATION  
IN BAHRAIN SEEMS STRIKINGLY SUBDUED, PARTICULARLY IN COMPARISON  
WITH THIS TIME LAST YEAR, AND THAT ABSENCE OF SERIOUS LABOR  
UNREST WAS NOTABLE. HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT THERE IS NO LABOR  
UNREST BECAUSE OF THE SECURITY DECREE AND THAT IF THE GOVERN-  
MENT LOSES IT IN ASSEMBLY, IT EXPECTS THE LABOR AGITATORS TO  
BE BACK IN BUSINESS QUICKLY.

TWINAM

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** : BAHRAIN SECURITY DECREE  
**TAGS:** PINS, PINT, BA  
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